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FREEWAY CHALLENGE TO W. AHWATUKEE CHARM

Home sales in west Ahwatukee have slowed, and market analysts are divided on the reason.

At first blush, there seems to be plenty of reasons why someone would not want to buy on the far west edge of Ahwatukee Foothills:

No grocery store or gas station for miles. No school district, which means sending high school students into Tempe for a classroom. No quick way out of town.

And, of course, a looming freeway. On the bright side, it would solve the "no quick way out of town" problem. But on the downside, nobody wants to live too close to a freeway.

So it seems logical that selling a home west of 27th Avenue would be a tough challenge. Yet as we write, homes are being built there.

Life is about choices, and there is one huge reason why people do buy houses in west Ahwatukee: It's gorgeous out there.

Living in the foothills of South Mountain, with the Estrellas to the west and the Gila River Reservation to the south, is a lifestyle easy to appreciate.

Ahwatukee is a village set apart from the rest of its city, and west Ahwatukee is further isolated by a nearly 1-square-mile tract of state trust land. Going home to a house in that community must feel like getting away from all the hectic activities of a workday.

Now that serenity is troubled with talk of a freeway. And maybe that publicity is part of the reason home sales in west Ahwatukee have cooled.

We empathize with people who did not know they might be buying freeway frontage-road property. It seems many of the residents did not realize that Maricopa County had planned a freeway along Pecos Road since 1988.

Now, the word is pretty much out, which could make it trickier to sell. Even if sellers and real-estate agents do not disclose the possibility of the South Mountain Freeway coming, anyone who has read an Ahwatukee newspaper in the past year will know.

Talk about full disclosure.

The "Our View" editorial below represents the opinion of The Republic's Southeast Valley Editorial Board, whose members are: General Manager Paul Maryniak, Editorial Page Editor Bob Schuster, Assistant Editorial Page Editor Gary Nelson and Editorial Writers Patricia Biggs, Joanna Hensley and Cindy Hernandez. If you have questions about the Opinions pages, please call 480.516.0101.

CAPTION: People still want to live in west Ahwatukee despite the lack of certain amenities and the planned construction of the South Mountain Freeway.

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